

Longacre's Ledger

The Journal of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collector's Society

Vol. 14.3; Issue #61

WWW.FLYINCLUB.ORG

September 2004



Bronze Indian Cent With Large Die Break Reverse

see page 13 for details...

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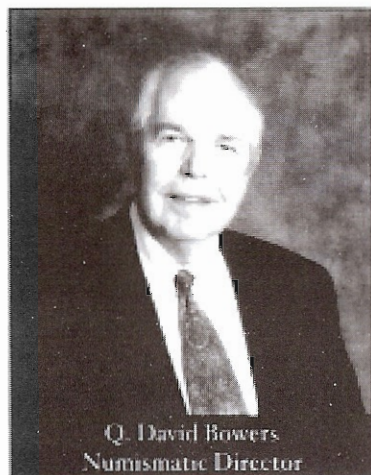
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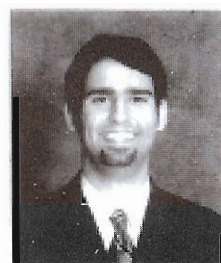
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The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society

Our mission is to gather and disseminate information related to
James B. Longacre (1794-1869), with emphasis on his work as
Chief Engraver of the Mint (1844 -1869) with a primary focus on his
Flying Eagle and Indian Cent coinage.

Founded 1991

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Please help the editor in updating any errors or changes. If you would like to become a state representative (there can be more than one per state) please contact the editor.

**On the cover...Indian Cent from the Chris Pilliod collection
featured in this issue's Whatizzit column on page 13.**

Image courtesy of Ken Hill

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Submission guidelines

If you have a substantive article you would like to contribute, please follow these guidelines:

- ✓ If you have internet access, you can send text to the editor's E-mail address below. Unformatted text or MS word preferred. Please save images as separate files (JPG or TIF preferred)
- ✓ You may also send files and images on a 3.5" PC-formatted disk or CD-W disk to the Editors address below.
- ✓ Hard copies of the article and pictures may also be included.
- ✓ Images of materials can be made by the editor for use in the Journal. Please include the necessary return postage with the submission.
- ✓ Please feel free to contact the editor if you have any questions.

Submission deadlines

Please submit all articles, letters, columns, press releases, advertisements no later than the following dates to assure inclusion. As you may be able to see, Ledger is running several months behind but the plan outlined below gets us back on track with 4 issues per year.

Issue	Deadline	Issue date
#63 2004 Vol. 14.4 ...	April 30, 2005	December 2004
#64 2005 Vol. 15.1 ...	April 30, 2005	March 2005
#65 2004 Vol. 15.2 ...	May 31, 2005	June 2005
#66 2004 Vol. 15.3 ...	July 31, 2005	September 2005

***Please forward all articles. Your participation in the content of the Ledger will keep our Club strong !
Feel free to write your Editor for help with photography if needed.***

Editor

Frank Leone
P.O. Box 170
Glen Oaks, NY 11004

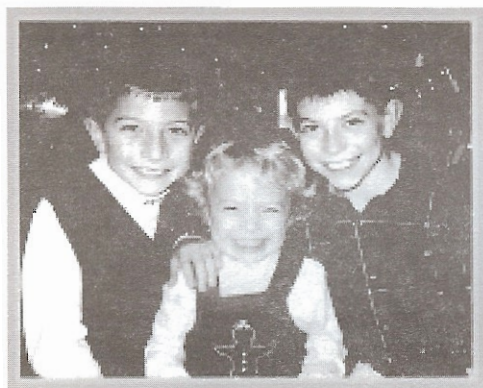
FLRC@AOL.COM

President's Letter

Chris Pilliod



It's wintertime and this time of year many turn towards their coin collecting. Here in Pennsylvania we have had quite a bit of snow recently and whiling one's time away numismatically when it's 10 degrees outside is as good as any. I am helping coach my Fifth-grader's basketball team and right now they are 5-0, but Saturday's score of 15-14 was too close for comfort.



The Pilliod Boys - Christmas 2004

We are now just getting the third issue out. I have decided due to the lack of material that we will commence being a three-issue Club. Unfortunately we have no choice, and in fact are struggling to even obtain enough meaningful material to issue just three journals per year. I am concluding that Indian cent collectors are not prolific writers. On the positive side, this will allow us to maintain current membership fees for a longer period of time. However if we do elicit enough material during the year, we will issue a fourth issue.

And again, if you have material to share with the club just a reminder our new editor is Frank Leone at the below address. And we desperately need fresh articles!!! In our renewal survey we found readers really enjoy the "Whattizzit?" column and the personal biography column—how you got started collecting coins, how your interests formed, your favorite coin, etc. I would love to have members send

their unknown "Whatizzits?" in to Frank to let us get a shot at unraveling their mysteries.

It seems as of late anything unusual in coins, a la exonumitica, is very hot. Love tokens, Civil War Tokens on Indian cents, encased Indian cents, and anything just "different" has invigorated collector's interests. One item not in my collection but I have always wanted to own is an Indian cent struck on a "wrong" planchet, one other than intended for a cent. But the longer I wait the more expensive they become. One of my personal favorites is the 1906 Indian cent featured on our last issue's cover—this piece was struck on a \$2 ½ Gold blank... what a great coin! The closest item in my collection is one that I would like to feature in this President's letter. Several years ago a collector (who may have even been a Fly-In member but I don't recall) bought a nice high-grade Indian cent from me on eBay. After the transaction expired we exchanged a few emails, and as I recall the gist of the communications were if I had any other premium Indians for sale. I mentioned that I had a choice 1880 Indian piece holdered by PCGS as MS65RB and that a couple other Fly-In members, Vern Sebbby and Sheldon Freed, had seen the piece and had expressed an interest, but I decided to keep it as it was quite choice for the grade. The only way I would part with it would be as a trade and asked if he had anything different or unusual of interest, "any errors" I asked.

He then proceeded to unravel a tale that at first seemed a bit incredulous. The gentleman was from Upstate New York as I recall. He attended local auctions and hit the few Coin Shops in the areas. But it was at some estate auction where they were auctioning off a can or a some rolls of Indian cents which he purchased at a reasonable wholesale Roll price. After taking them home for study he came across an unusual 1890 piece which at first he felt must be a counterfeit. He related to me that it looked more like a copper-nickel piece from the 1860's but was thin like a normal 1890. It also was severely mishandled,

as if someone had tried to cut it into two pieces, like the Secret Service does when they abduct a counterfeit hoard. Here's where the story gets a bit fuzzy, as I can't recall if it was he or I that thought of the possibility of it being a Pattern, but as I recall it was him. Regardless, with the damage and all, coupled with the fact he paid less than a buck for the thing, he felt it was worthless. So he was ecstatic when I offered him a trade for the 1880 Indian cent sight-unseen.

Keep in mind, even as an advanced Indian cent collector I am by no means an expert in Pattern issues, especially after 1864. But I've learned the lesson that it never hurts to have too many reference books. I grabbed my Judd and Pollock books and quickly found the following reference for 1890 in Pollock: Pollock 1971. Copper-Nickel. The dies used to coin regular-issue 1890 1c pieces. Plain Edge. Rarity-8. AW-172, Judd-1758.

(1) Spink, March 1983, Auction No. 3, Lot 752, described as grading Fine and having cuts (my piece??). Lot realized \$130.00. *

I then performed a non-destructive chemistry on the piece and obtained the following results:

Cu, copper 88 %
Ni, nickel..... 12 %
Weight, gms..... 3.01 gms

Sure enough, the chemistry agrees with the standard chemistry employed by the Mint from 1856 to 1864, and the weight is appropriate for a genuinely struck piece.

So the question I kept asking myself was, "Why did the Mint produce these patterns?" Nickel is a more expensive metal than copper, so why would they replace copper with nickel??? This particular Pattern was not of any different design or of a different physical size, so this would not represent any experiment or trial of any significance. The only possible explanation I can offer is metallurgically copper-nickel offers better wear-resistance as well as improved corrosion-resistance. Help me out!!!! Anybody hazard a guess as to why the Mint would experiment with such an alloy???

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If you would like to share any thoughts, my new email address is: cpilliod@msn.com



1890 Indian Cent with 88% copper and 12% nickel composition.

1888/7 Die #1 Indian Cent



This may be the most popular and valuable variety in the entire Indian Cent series. Very few examples are known of this Die #1 overdate. The bottom of the 7 is easily seen at the final 8. The die marker small cud is visible above TED of UNITED. The coin has bold EF detail, 4 diamonds are visible. Dark brown in color; the surfaces are slightly granular. A couple faint scratches from the T in UNITED to the mouth. Not a single rim ding on either obverse or reverse. Coin World CoinValues prices this date at \$8,000 in VF, \$12,000 in EF.

\$9,000

The price is to the first lucky buyer. Should the piece not sell at that level, reasonable trades and counter-offers will be considered.

Contact

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“On a Lark”

by Dave Kelly

I live in a rural area in New York that is dotted with mostly lower income farming communities. There is not much exciting in the way of numismatic adventures but I enjoy browsing estate auction announcements and try to go to everyone that lists “coins”. More often than not it is a disappointment, with a typical lot being a group of wheat cents, proof sets or circulated Morgan dollars and the like. Rarely is anything unusual found but you never know, and as they say “the fun is in the hunt”. Besides I usually have fun going.

coins in the can with about one in ten being Indians and I figured a bid of \$50 should win the lot. So that’s what I bid and I wound up winning the thing for \$35 + the Buyer’s Premium. I almost started feeling buyer’s remorse—what do I need more Wheaties for???

But when I got home, I walked into the kitchen and dumped the whole thing out on the table (much to my wife’s chagrin). I began sorting the IHC from the Wheaties in what quickly became a boring task. Suddenly something caught my eye as I noticed an unusual looking piece.



1907 Double Struck indian cent purchased on a lark by the author. Images courtesy of American Numismatic Rarities, Inc.

A couple years ago a local auction was advertised with a few coins that sounded like a typical mill-run sampling of common material, but on a lark I decided to attend nonetheless. There was one lot that was simply a coffee can half-loaded with Wheat Ears mixed in with a few Indian Head cents. It looked as if it was from some old estate where maybe an old codger just threw his pennies in the can every night after work. I estimated there were about 300-500

My heart skipped a beat as I studied it, exclaiming to myself, “it can’t be!!!” But sure enough, one of the 1907 Indian Cents was double struck. I had never seen one before and after my pulse returned to normal, I began to question my luck... “can this thing really be authentic???”

Since I belong to a few Internet coin forums I quickly posted a scan of the coin and asked if anyone could help

in determining its value and authenticity. Someone responded that I should contact the Fly-In club with my inquiry. So I sent off an e-mail that was responded to by Chris Pilliod. He was extremely helpful and recommended that I send it to one of the grading services for encapsulation and authenticity. Off the coin went to NGC where it was returned as authentic with a VF-35 designation. WOW, was I excited!!!

It took me a few months to determine whether I wanted to keep the coin for my collection or sell it. While I do indeed have a collection of Indians, this error, while quite interesting did not really fit into my interests and I decided to consign the coin, among others, to American Numismatic Rarities for the January 2005 FUN show.

This experience actually helped to rekindle an interest in numismatics that I had since childhood but had stagnated. I still go to every auction that I can, and while

not expecting to make such a dramatic find, the thrill of the chase is just as exciting. I plan to use the proceeds of the sale to help complete my type set, which still has many holes.

Editor's Note - This coin was sold at public auction by American Numismatic Rarities, Inc. on January 10th, 2005 as lot #149 and described as "1907 Indian cent. Double struck. VF-30 (NGC). A spectacular error, struck once in the press, rotated slightly, shifted about 50% off center, and then struck a second time, with the lucky numismatic consequence that two dates are visible. A dramatic Indian cent error. If you want only one Indian cent in your collection, perhaps this is it!" The piece brought the incredible price of \$1150 which includes the 15% Buyer's Fee.

The Fly-In Club Welcomes 2004's New Members

by Vernon Sebby

As an ongoing feature, we'd like to welcome our new members:

Member	State	Sponsor
Nelson C.	Ohio	website
Tim G.	Texas	website
Robert W.	Washington DC	website
Robert G.	Connecticut	website
Stanley M.	Iowa	Chris Pilliod
John C.	Arizona	Chris Pilliod

Thank you for joining us. If any of you have an article or anecdote you'd like to share, please send it to our editor, Frank Leone, PO Box 170, Glen Oaks, NY 11004. If you have any questions or comments about the club, please contact me, Vern Sebby at PO Box 162, LaFox, Illinois, 60147, or email, melva6906@prairienet.com.

What Are Investment Grade Coins?

by Vernon Sebby, Fly-In #474

Winter has come to Northern Illinois, so my days on the golf course are limited, but that gives me reason to focus on coins. The latest greysheet (Coin Dealer Newsletter) arrived, and once again I saw a large number of price increases in many series in a wide variety of grades. This caused me to wonder what types of coins, (and in what grades) have done well over the years. I pulled some old greysheets, and put together a spreadsheet comparing prices. The results were surprising.

I started (naturally enough) with Flying Eagle and Indian Cents, and included all dates from 1856 through 1909-S, except for the 1869 overdate. I chose grades fine, almost uncirculated, MS-63 and MS-65. To clarify, greysheet lists MS-63 bronze Indian Cents as brown, and MS-65's as red browns. The earliest greysheet I found was from January 1989, so that's where I started. Using this month (December 2004) as current, the spreadsheet revealed the following:

Grade	Dollar Increase	Percentage Increase	Date with Largest Increase
Fine	\$ 6,109	233%	1872 (315%)
AU	\$ 9,981	162%	1886 (377%)
MS-63	\$14,166	103%	1856 (214%)
MS-65	\$37,360	77%	1856 (654%)

Since the 1856 accounts for such a high percentage of the value of the entire set, I decided to remove it and recalculate the numbers:

Grade	Dollar Increase	Percentage Increase	Date with Largest Increase
Fine	\$ 1,809	197%	1872 (315%)
AU	\$ 3,506	103%	1886 (377%)
MS-63	\$ 1,816	18%	1872 (97%)
MS-65	\$ 60	0%	1872 (233%)

Intuitively, something seemed wrong with these numbers. It turns out that the year 1989 was in the middle of the great "investment in slabbed coins" craze. Common coins of all series in MS-65 plastic were ridiculously over priced. Common MS-65 red brown

Indian Cents were priced at \$375. The "investment craze" soon ended, and prices fell for the higher graded mint state coins. By 1991 prices had stabilized, so I recalculated the spreadsheet (without the 1856), using January 1991 as a starting point:

Grade	Dollar Increase	Percentage Increase	Date with Largest Increase
Fine	\$ 1,526	127%	1908-S (220%)
AU	\$ 2,964	75%	1886 (163%)
MS-63	\$ 3,967	50%	1888 (150%)
MS-65	\$17,030	66%	1888 (454%)

What a surprise! The best investment turns out to be a popular collector grade, fine. By a large margin! Investing in coins graded fine would have other advantages. Investors wouldn't have to rely on someone else to grade their coins, it's much easier to differentiate good, very good, fine and very fine, than it is MS-63, MS-64, MS-65 and MS-66. And this doesn't even take into account the complexities of red and red brown coloration. It's not that difficult to acquire an eye for a nice chocolate brown fine. It's also much easier to sell coins graded fine than it is coins graded MS-65, for close to actual sheet value. I'd say collectors had it right all along.

Now, for a few related thoughts. Not all dates performed the same. As might be expected, the key dates generally led the way. Even if they weren't the top performing date in a grade, they were well above the average. The

performance of the 1856 in mint state needs to be asterisked, due to the disagreement on what is mint state and what is proof. Currently, neither PCGS nor NGC will certify any 1856 as mint state. The few they certified as mint state (especially MS-65) in the past have become inordinately valuable as registry set collectors vie for the notoriety of owning the best. Lastly, mint state full red coins were not included in these comparisons, as pricing information isn't available in any comparable form, from the late eighties and early nineties. That market was just developing.

Perhaps in an upcoming article, I will compare Flying Eagle and Indian Cents with other series. As always, I welcome any comments to melva6906@prairienet.com.

1863 Indian Cent with Possible Misplaced Date

by Frank Leone

At the recent Baltimore coin show, Bill Affanato shared this interesting cent with me. The coin has what could be considered by some to be the top or bottom of a 1 digit sticking out from the hair curl below the ear.

The coin resides in an NGC MS64 holder so wear is not a factor in the positive identification of a digit. This mark could also be a die chip that merely gives the impression of "character" at first glance.

Take a look at the pics and feel free to write with any opinions.



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Whatizzit, Anyway?

"A Coin Conundrum"

by Chris Pilliod

A couple months ago, my good friend Ken Hill and I were talking on the phone and he said he had just returned from a local Seattle coin show. He regularly attends the show, but usually says he returns "with nothing exciting". This time, however he said he picked up an Indian cent with a "decent" cud on the reverse and said he would mail me a photo. About two weeks later I get an envelope in the mail with this scribbled on the back:

"OK, Sherlock, figure out the date!"

So I opened the envelope and out fell a photo of the reverse. I quickly noticed there was no photo of the obverse so I figured out that might make discerning the date a bit tougher (I am pretty fast on the draw). I also noticed quickly that this was not only a decent cud—it was one heckuva nice one! One of the largest retained cuds in the series.

So here's a Whatizzit where I don't have the answer and need your help. As such, it is worth \$20.00 towards a future renewal for the first person to correctly state the date... email your answers directly to Ken Hill as I honestly do not know the date. I can, however, offer the following insights.

At first glance I thought the piece must be an 1864-L. I have seen numerous examples of (see photo), but closer examination proves that it can not be. That's because Ken's coin is struck with a Type II reverse die, with a deep "N" on "ONE" and trumpeted "E's" instead of the square "E's". So it had to be struck after 1870.

Once this was determined I raced through my mind what years I had similar cuds on, and I quickly honed in on the years 1887 through 1892. Having amassed a large number of these dated Indians with not only cuds, but also just heavy die cracks that might develop into such a cud I thought I could find a match.

So I took the photo with me to the Safety Deposit Box and carefully compared the approximately 100 or so examples I had of these dates. But after double-checking each I realized I had no matches. That doesn't mean these are not the correct dates, it just means I don't have a match.

Then I looked at some cuds I have from 1878 to 1880, as I have a few reverse cuds in the same location as this one. No luck here either.

I can also offer that I have never seen a cud of this magnitude on the reverse of any Indians dated after 1892, so these years would be low on my guess list. Go ahead and check your Indians, look for any die cracks that might match this cud, and e-mail your answer to Ken Hill at: hilljk@att.net



My Coin Related Autobiography

by Brian Wagner, Fly-In #155

I was born in Seattle, Washington in 1950. I started collecting coins at the age of eight. My parents would bring home \$50 bags of pennies from a friend who had a vending machine route, and they, my two brothers and I would look through these bags and fill in the blanks in our blue "Whitman" coin albums. By the time I was 12 years old I had a nice collection of Lincoln Cents, so I opened up the "21st Avenue Coin Shop" and got a lot of the neighborhood kids involved in collecting Lincoln Cents. In my later teens I was wheeling and dealing in coins. I would answer ads in newspapers from people who had coins to sell. By 1968, I had two complete collections of Lincoln Cents, except the 1922 no D.

My coin interests weren't limited to Lincoln Cents. In 1968, my uncle offered me ten uncirculated St. Gauden's double eagles, and I remember paying him \$90 each. They were about the most beautiful coins I had ever seen! Another time, a neighbor lady said she had a handful of coins that I could have. I went over to her house and she gave me 6 coins, a couple of Lincoln's, 2 wartime nickels and 2 buffalo nickels. One of the buffalos had a 1937 date, a "D" on the reverse, and only three legs. I said WOW, it's the 3 legger, and in XF! I seem to always have been blessed with being in the right place at the right time.

At the age of 19 my coin interests began to diminish as I tried to make a success of myself in the business world. I attended trade school to become an electronics technician. It was an eighteen month course, and I received the "honor award" for top academic achievement. From late 1970 until 1977 I was a Marine Electronics Field Engineer. I would ride large ocean going vessels and service and repair their communications equipment. After averaging about 50 hours a week for 7 years, I was burned out and began looking for another career and a new challenge.

In early 1978, I got my Real Estate License for the State of Washington. By year's end, I was awarded

"Rookie of the Year" and "Top Producer of 1978". The company I worked for had over 200 agents and four offices. I continued as a real estate agent through 1985.

By 1986, I had set another goal for myself, I wanted to become a real estate developer and general contractor. I founded BMW Construction, Inc., and put together ten successful condominium projects in the Alki Beach area of West Seattle. BMW continued its run until 1993, when severe zoning restrictions passed by the Seattle City Council made condominium development economically unfeasible for me.

It was during this period when my coin interest became rejuvenated. In 1987 I remember spotting a coin magazine in a grocery store with a headline "3 LEGGED BUFFALO TURNS 50". I thought back to the little neighbor lady who gave me those 6 coins and bought the magazine. Coin fever was again burning within me. I started buying inexpensive items as I built my grading skills and tried to avoid being taken by unscrupulous dealers. By 1989, I felt comfortable with my grading skills and pricing knowledge, so I formed Indians West Coin Company and started buying and selling certified Flying Eagle and Indian Cents. I had really taken a liking to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents, so I started to put together a nice set in PCGS MS65 and MS65 Red.

I ran Indians West on a part time basis as I still had BMW Construction going full time. I started attending the major shows and met some interesting people. One of them was Rick Snow, who told me he was writing a book about my favorite series. At each show, I would spend time talking to him. Back then, Rick was employed by Allstate Coin, who many remember was owned by Elliot Goldman. Most of my business at shows was with dealers, but I was developing some collector clients that I would offer my "nice" inventory to.

The ANA summer show in 1990 was in Seattle. I was excited about this big show coming to my home town. I took my son, who was thirteen then, and we were first in front for the ribbon cutting, which would open the show to the public. Once on the bourse floor, the first table we walked up to had some Indian Cents in 2x2 cardboard holders. I saw one that said 1873 AU for \$60, so I asked to see the coin. As I brought it up to my eye I was in shock! It was a die #1, bold "Double Liberty". I quickly gave the gentleman his \$60 and headed for Allstate Coin's table to show Rick and Elliot what I had just acquired. Elliot, with Rick's encouragement, wanted the coin so I let him whittle me down to \$1,800! My son, who is now 27, still talks about this great find!

In early 1993, with BMW Construction closed down, I was in the coin business full time. I bought a 50% interest in Rick Snow's company, Eagle Eye Rare Coins, of Tucson, Arizona, which he left Allstate to start up in 1992. As Rick was single and I was married with young children he moved to Seattle, and on July 1, 1993, we formed EAGLE EYE RARE COINS, INC of Seahurst, WA. By 1994, we took this small startup company to sales that were always in excess of 1 million dollars per year. We handled most of the great rarities of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent series. We purchased and sold the Epstein collection, which was the all-time finest registry set. We helped assemble many other great collections, including the Blay, Gorrell, Heller, Elkin, Frankfurt, Blackberry, Heathgate, Paddock, Larson, Redmon, and Thias collections. There were many more, I apologize if I missed anyone. We handled some great coins, including an 1856 PCGS MS66 S-3, which just sold at the recent FUN Show for \$172,500, an 1858 LL PCGS MS67, the 1861 PCGS MS68, the 1899 PCGS MS68RD, the 1873 Double Liberty PCGS MS65 RB, and a 1936 Lincoln Cent PCGS PR67RD, just to name a few. We originated the "Eagle Eye Photo Seal" in 1995. If you look at the back of the photo seal cards you will see my signa-

ture right there with Rick's on any coin photo sealed from 1995-2000. In 1996, I became a contributor to the Red Book, for Flying Eagle and Indian Cent pricing. In 1996, Q David Bowers, asked me to help with the retail prices for his fantastic book, "A Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents. In 1996, I had another great "cherry pick". I located an 1891 S-1, Double Die Obverse, Indian Cent in a PCGS MS64RB holder. We paid \$80 for the coin, which quickly sold to a variety collector for \$2,000!

In early 2000, after 7 years of hard work and a lot of traveling, I felt I needed a break from the coin business. I wanted to devote more time to my wife and our three daughters at home, so I asked Rick to buy me out. By April 1st, I was back at home doing some real estate things and taking a needed break. Rick took Eagle Eye back to Tucson in the summer of 2000. He still resides there today.

I never lost interest in coins. I kept an eye on the Eagle Eye web site, to keep informed about the coin market, and continued receiving Eagle Eye's mail offerings. In July 2003, Rick send out an "Indian Central" which was entitled "10th Year Anniversary Issue", commemorating Eagle Eye Rare Coins of Seahurst, Washington, and all of our great achievements. THAT'S WHAT DID IT! I thought to myself, I'M COMING BACK! In August 2003, I announced my comeback and started to prepare for my return to the coin business.

In January 2004, I attended my first show, the FUN show in Orlando, Florida, doing business as Brian Wagner Rare Coins (BWRC). I bought some nice quality pieces and saw a lot of friends that I had missed since my departure. I believe it was a great start! My desire for the coin business is burning brightly again. Questions and comments may be directed to me at flyingeagle1856@comcast.net.

The Ornamented Shield Dies

by Rick Snow

The study of die states can sound like the boring work which will yield no real information. As was shown with my die state study of the 1856 Flying Eagle cent, the study of die states can have huge effects on the desirability of certain coins. My study of 1858 patterns presented in *Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide 1856-1858* (2001) showed a clearer linkage between the various patterns issued in the 12 piece sets.

One of the dies I studied in this set was what I called the "Ornamental Shield" reverse. This design is an Oak Wreath similar to the wreath adopted in 1860 with a shield above that has flourishes on it's sides and ornaments on top. The design is credited to Longacre, but it could well have been the work of Assistant Engraver, Anthony Paquet. This design was rejected by Mint Director James R. Snowden because the shield look too much like a harp. Tim Larson, and others suggested that "Ornamented Shield" is the correct terminology, and so in the future that is what it will be called.

In the process of taking die diagnostics over a period of 10 years, I came to the conclusion that there was only one Ornamented Wreath reverse. This had great consequences in the emission sequence derived from the coins seen. For instance the 1859 issue with this reverse (J-227) had more detail than some of the 1858 pieces, so I write that some of the 1858 pieces were restrikes from 1859 or later. It was only recently that I had the privilege of having numerous examples from various sources: the pattern collection of Ron Sima, the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent collection of Tim Larson, and coins from top collector of Flying Eagle Cents. It was this Flying Eagle Cent collector, who presently has requested anonymity, who called something special to my attention.

He had purchased the rare 1856 with the Ornamented wreath reverse (J-184) from the Larson collection and was intending to sell his duplicate, which had an eager buyer waiting. He said he had a problem, it looked to him like the Ornamented Wreath reverses on the two pieces in his possession were slightly different. If this

Pattern combinations using the Ornamented Wreath reverse



1856 PT1
Flying Eagle
J-184



1858
Small Eagle
J-204

1859 PT3
Indian
J-227



1858 PT3
Flying Eagle, LL
J-198

1858 PT32
Indian, Narrow BP
J-212a



1858 PT11
Flying Eagle, SL
J-193

1858 PT25
Indian, Broad BP
J-212



was actually the case he wanted to keep both. After examining the coins together with the Ron Sirna pattern collection, I seconded his discovery and found something more: there were not just two different dies, but four!

The differences are so minor that without side-by-side comparisons it would be impossible to pick up. This discovery changes the current knowledge considerably. No longer can it be proven that 1858 patterns were struck later than 1858. The two 1856 die pairs now known cannot be proven to be made in 1858 as both are in their earliest die state. A complete overhaul of the pattern sections of both attribution guides (1856-1858 and 1859-1869) is needed.

Die 1
Found on:
1856 PT1, J-184

Since this is found on only one coin seen, the 1856 piece. I list this as die 1, but it may be a reworked die of later die state of another die.



There is a thick line under the two amulets on the right. The top horizontal line is just visible.



The arrow feathers are rounded and shallow. The lower areas of the ribbon have some light lines.

Die 2
Found on:
1858 Large Letter PT1, J-198

Again only one coin see so far was from this die pair. It is similar to die 1, which is why I listed it as die 2.



There is a thinner line under the amulets on the right. The top horizontal line is quite visible.



The arrow feathers are rounded and shallow. The lower areas of the ribbon do not have lines.

Die 3

Found on:

Die state A: 1856 PT1, J-184

1858 PT11, J-193*

1858 PT17, J-204*

Die state B: 1858 PT25, J-212

1858 PT11, J-193*

1858 PT17, J-204*

Die state C: 1858 PT11, J-193

1858 PT25, J-212*

1858 PT32, J-212a*

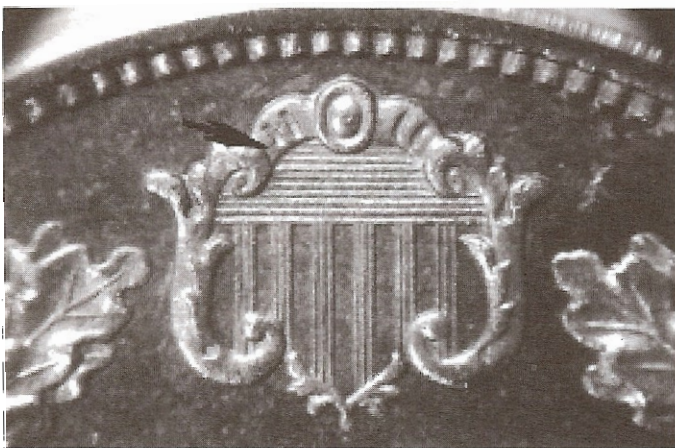
Die state D: 1858 PT32, J-212a

1858 PT17, J-204*

*Not reconfirmed

This is the commonly encountered die. Probably used on the majority of the 1858 patterns. The emission of the various patterns is very complicated since the Mint did not necessarily strike all the pieces of any given die pair at once. Initially perhaps 75 pieces were struck of each die paid, perhaps being repolished in between. Later extra pieces may have been struck as needed. The die progression does tell us that the 1856 piece was struck first, perhaps in 1856. It also tells us that the narrow bust point 1858 Indian pieces, which have the exact portrait as adopted in 1859, were struck last.

In the next year I will be reconfirming the die states of pieces I see. The listings that are listed with an asterisk (*) were listed in my book with the given die states and have a high degree of accuracy. These may exist with one of the other die pairs as well and must be reconfirmed.



Die stage A: There is no line below the amulets on the right. Polished fields



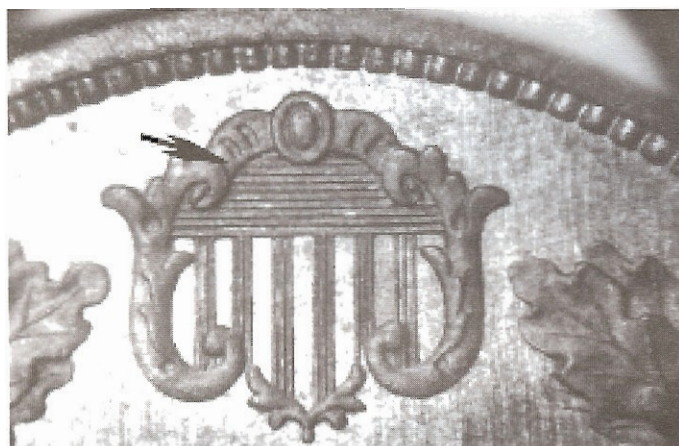
Die stage A: The arrow feathers are fused more than on other dies. The ribbon is bold at the low points. Polished fields.



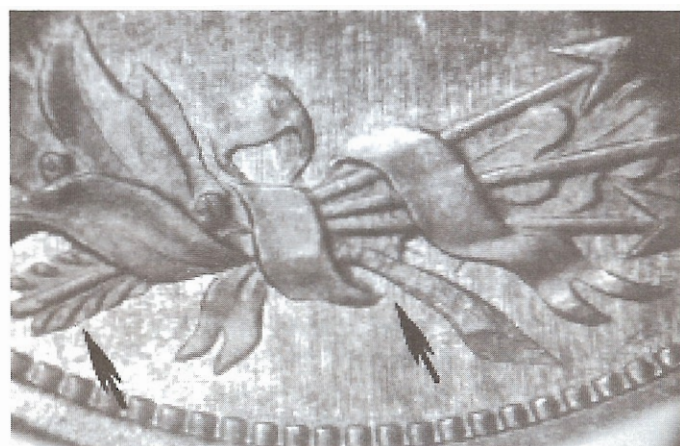
Die stage B: Die striations 10:30 - 4:30.



Die stage B: Die striations 10:30 - 4:30. Base of ribbon just disconnected from stem.



Die stage C: Die striations 12:00 - 6:00.



Die stage C: Die striations 12:00 - 6:00. The area on both sides of the stem are polished away.



Die stage D: Mirrored fields.



Die stage D: Mirrored fields. The area on both sides of the stem are polished away. The end of the olive stem blends into the field.

Die 4
Found on:
1859 PT3, J-227

Found only on the 1859 issues. MS and Proof graded examples are essentially the same die states. Striking quality is the only difference between the formats.



Proof die: The amulets on the right are nearly obliterated. This looks like it might be caused by a weak strike, but as we see below it is a die defect.



Proof die: The ribbon is bold, and there is an outline around the arrow feathers. Light die striations generally in the 10:00 - 4:00 direction.



MS die: The amulets on the left are nearly obliterated. There just a hint of a horizontal line under the right amulets.



MS die: The ribbon is bold, and there is an outline around the arrow feathers. Unpolished fields.

All Ornamented wreath reverse patterns should be rechecked and added to the data presented above.

How to submit coins for attribution

What should be submitted: Any premium value variety which has not been previously listed in the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide. Any overdate, doubled die, repunched date, die anomaly (if it's dramatic enough to ensure collectability) and misplaced digit (provided it is dramatic enough) should be submitted.

How to submit a coin for attribution: There is no limit on submissions. All coins should be sent to Fly-In Club Attributor,

**Rick Snow,
P.O. Box 65645,
Tucson, AZ 85728**

All coins should be sent with a listing of the coins, their insurance value, and a return address and phone number.

How much does it cost?: Please include \$4 per coin, plus return postage. All coin will be returned via the U.S. Post Office by registered and insured postage. Their cost is \$8 plus \$1 for every \$1,000 in insured value.

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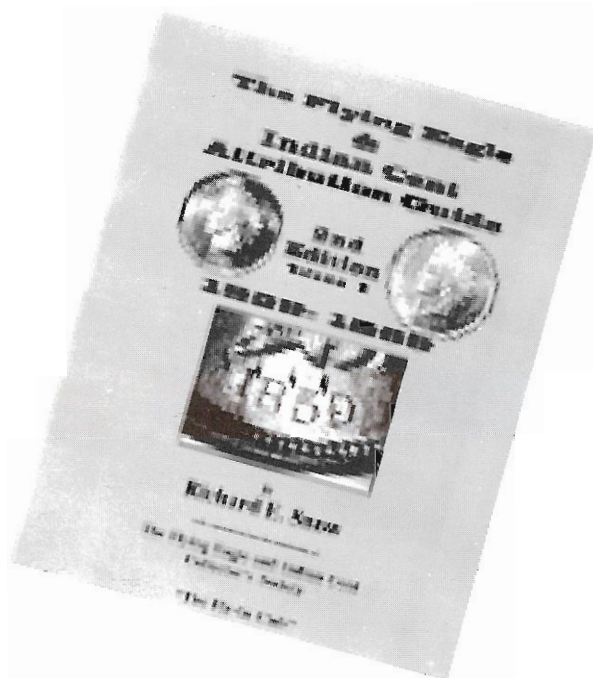
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